

The contrary—almost always Israel's problems are now being presented if they are entirely self-inflicted. Arabs are presented as if they are always simply reacting to Israel refusal to accept their reasonable demands that the Jews just clear out of more territory because it does not really belong to them.

American public support for Israel rises and for Yasir Arafat declines. But U.S. and European journalism is increasingly sympathetic to the Palestinians and unpleasant about Israel.

To each his own vision. To my eyes, and to those of the majority of Americans, Israel is one of history's soaring proclamations of mankind's worth to itself and its Creator.

These days it is not said much anymore, which is a pity, but Israel did indeed begin with nothing much more than sand, hope and belief. And yes, 50 years later it is indeed the Mideast's only democracy, a growing center of science, technology, art, music.

Israel is not a dirge—but a country; how happy the thought.

And I find emotion entirely permissible about Israel's ability to maintain life and progress though its neighbors have imposed an absence of peace for a half-century.

But about dangers to Israeli survival, cool is best. And stepping back coolly we see the realities.

One is that Israel may work out agreement with Palestinians—if they want it enough to agree to conditions that will give Israel security of borders and the end of terrorism. The agreement would bring respite that could grow into a peace of some years.

But another reality is that agreement on Palestine would not bring permanent peace. Ask ourselves, would Mideast rulers, the worker-merchant "street" and religious and intellectual establishments accept an Israel forever growing in skills and strength—or in their dreams and desires want Israel extinguished, and work toward the day?

Run them through the mind: Syria, Libya, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, the gulf sheikdoms, the Sudan, Algeria, Iraq, Iran.

The hatred against Israel these countries receive, accept and pass on as heritage and religious obligation—would it vanish with an independent Palestine or would it continue in them, and in Palestine too?

If Iran and Iraq develop chemical, nuclear and biological weapons, will they strike against Israel? Would other Arabs extend sympathy to Israel—or dance on rooftops and scream their passion to kill Jews? Would the West take the risk of world war to rescue Israel?

We know the answers. Permanent peace in the Mideast will not come until sufficient Arab peoples replace dictatorship—fundamentalist, religious, military or terrorist—with democratic religious and political freedoms.

Then perhaps the Muslim governments will end the feuds among themselves that are the central cause of Mideast wars. Then perhaps they will even try to end the hatred of Israeli existence that infests the Mideast with the threat of war against Israel.

Freedom may happen in the Mideast, as in so many other places. But it will come slowly, fitfully.

Meantime, will Israel stand strong at arms, maintaining military power not for victory over another country but for defense?

Will the U.S. remain a friend or become a harassment? Will some foreign and Israeli Jews push their religious and political hostility against Israeli governments so long and hard that they sap Israel's strength, will power and self-belief, as Israel awaits Arab conversion to democracy?

From friends of Israel, cool questions in themselves are gifts to Israel—and to one another.

JOHN E. BARRIERE

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 1998

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, one of the most important and under appreciated aspects of the workings of our democracy is the extraordinarily dedicated and able work done by the professional staffs who serve those of us who have been elected to Congress. While it is popular to mock people who work in the political and legislative system, in fact their contribution represents one of the great bargains the American people receive. Our work is enormously helped by the large number of extremely talented and dedicated people who put in extremely long hours helping us make public policy, at far less compensation than most of them would receive in almost any other occupation.

I thought of that recently Mr. Speaker when I learned of the death of an extremely dedicated creative individual who is one of those who helped set the model for the kind of professional policy advisor on whom we are now so dependent. His name is John Barriere, and he came to Washington 50 years ago. Sadly, John Barriere died last week at the age of 78, and he left behind him a legacy of extraordinary service to democracy. I was recently reminded by Gerry McMurray, a former Chief of Staff of the Housing Subcommittee of the House Banking Committee, that Mr. Barriere was the first man to be a professional staff member of that subcommittee, having helped bring it into existence 43 years ago, and serving as its Staff Director until 1964. Because of the great ability he showed in that position, he was chosen by Speaker John McCormack in 1964 to be the first policy staff advisor to the Speaker, and he was the Executive Director—and heart and soul—of the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee until 1978. Among the pieces of legislation that he played an indispensable role in bringing to passage were the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and the Civil Rights Act of 1968—that extraordinarily important set of bills that helped break the back of legal racism in America.

He worked closely with Richard Bolling during his chairmanship of the Rules Committee in bringing forward the Congressional Reform Act of 1974 and 1976, and the Budget Act of 1974.

Indeed, along with John McCormack, Richard Bolling, Harry Truman and Senator Robert Wagner recognized John's great ability and put him to work. In other words Mr. Speaker he was a man whose great ability and equally great willingness to serve proved to be an important asset for a series of leaders in our governing processes.

I was pleased myself to meet him more than 30 years ago, when in the service of the gubernatorial campaign of the late Edward McCormack, a nephew of the Speaker, I came to Washington to do some research on federal issues. I was then a young graduate student in political science, and meeting John Barriere, and listening to him describe the interaction of the legislative process, politics, and substantive policy was an extraordinary education which I never forgot.

Many years later, when my domestic partner, Herb Moses, went to work at FannieMae,

I was delighted to learn that one of his co-workers was Laura Barriere, the daughter of John, and vicariously through Laura I was able to renew that acquaintance. I was saddened by news of his death, and Herb and I send our condolences to Laura, and the rest of the family. And I wanted to note here the passing of this man who quietly, but very effectively, did so much to set a pattern of professional service in the House from which we continue to benefit.

SALUTE TO RUSS MUELLER ON HIS 25TH ANNIVERSARY WITH HOUSE

HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 1998

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize and honor a member of the staff of the Committee on Education and Workforce, Mr. Russ Mueller, on his 25th anniversary with the Committee.

Russ came to the Committee staff in the middle of the Congressional debate on the legislation that was subsequently passed and became known as ERISA—the Employee Retirement Income Security Act. Since then, for many of us, Russ and ERISA have become almost synonymous. John Erlenborn and Al Quie, the Ranking Members of the full committee and subcommittee at the time, wanted a staff member who understood the intricacies of pension financing and other employee benefits. So they brought in Russ, who was, and is, a certified actuary. Twenty five years later Russ is still setting Members of Congress straight on the intricacies of employee benefits.

Along the way Russ has worked on a lot of major legislation. I suspect that some of his prouder accomplishments have been in helping to stop a lot of bad ideas—like the Clinton health care proposal a few years ago, on which he worked day and night for weeks on end to point out the foreseen and unforeseen consequences of that government take over of health care.

All of us who have worked with Russ know of his knowledge in the employee benefits area and of his commitment to legislative craftsmanship. He truly is one of our experts in these complex issues and has worked untiringly on behalf of our voluntary, employment based health care and benefits system. Along the way he has found time to be an avid golfer and fisherman, and dedicated father. I am pleased to recognize and salute Russ for his 25 years of service to the Committee, the Congress and to our country. I wish him many more years of good health and continued good service.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 1998

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, over the past week the debate on campaign finance reform has shifted, from when we will get a vote to what